



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION March 8, 2006

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Cusack
Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Mr. John O'Brien, Chief of Statewide Planning
Dr. Ronald J. Onorato
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Principal Historian
Ms Pamela A. Kennedy, Deputy Director
Ms Sarah Zurier, Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Ms Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Robert J. McKenna
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Mr. Daniel DeDentro, State Building Commissioner
Mr. Michael Sullivan, Department of Environmental Management
Mr. Michael McMahon, Economic Development Corporation

GUESTS

Ms Kathryn Cavanaugh, consultant
Mr. Edward Connors, consultant
Ms Jennie Fields, PAL, Inc.
Mr. Albert T. Klyberg
Mr. Geoffrey Marchant, East Greenwich Community Development Consortium
Ms Cory Schreier, Preservation of Affordable Housing, Boston
Mr. Ronald Wood, Urban Design Group

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am, Mr. Williamson, Chair, presiding.

2. Minutes of February 8, 2006, meeting

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2006.

3. Executive Director's Report

Deputy Director Pamela Kennedy explained that Mr. Sanderson was absent due to illness.

a) Ms Kennedy reported that the Commission has received a grant of \$150,000 from Preserve America to promote heritage tourism in the Blackstone Valley. The Commission will work with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor on the activities associated with the grant.

b) At the request of Commissioners, Ms Kennedy described the activities of Grow Smart RI and Preserve Rhode Island in support of the RI Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit. Commissioners briefly considered whether a resolution expressing the Commissioners' view that the tax credit is valuable for historic preservation and economic development is advisable; they concluded that individual letters from Commissioners to the Governor and the General Assembly were more appropriate.

4. National Register Review Board

Final National Register Approvals

Upper Rockville Mill, 332 Canonchet Road, Hopkinton

Ms Kennedy presented information about the property. The nomination was prepared by Kathryn Cavanaugh. The mill complex is nominated because it is a good representative example of the Wood River valley mills, in that it is early in date (1840s and later), remained small in scale through its history, and used waterpower long after alternatives were available; in addition, the mill has importance in the history of RI mill architecture—it is a well preserved early stone mill. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission

VOTED unanimously final approval of the nomination.

South Street Station, 360 Eddy Street, Providence

Ms Kennedy presented information about the property. The nomination was prepared by Joanna Dougherty and Matthew Kierstead, PAL. This is an electrical power generating station, dating from the 1910s and 1920s, an early and very well preserved example of the generating station, influential in Rhode Island's industrial development, in community development patterns, and in transportation history. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission

VOTED unanimously final approval of the nomination.

Crompton Mill Historic District, West Warwick

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. This is a major mill complex on the Pawtuxet River, built through the 19th century into the 20th century. The nomination includes all of the mill buildings and structures on the east side of the river; there are additional resources on the west side which may also be eligible. Further, the Crompton Mills are the center of a large village which may also be eligible. The Crompton Mills are nominated because they exemplify patterns of industrial development in the region, because their product was nationally known for decades, and because the architectural quality of the mills is typical of several periods of mill construction. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Hebert, the Commission

VOTED unanimously final approval of the nomination.

Preliminary National Register Approvals

Manville Mill Houses, Lincoln

Ms Kennedy presented information about this mill housing, including about 35 buildings in various locations in the village of Manville, mostly wood frame double houses and also some long brick row houses. The houses were constructed by the Manville Company for workers in a mill (no longer extant) across the river in Cumberland. The houses date from four building campaigns, from the 1830s through the 1890s. The mill houses were presented at the request of a property owner who asked whether the houses were eligible as a group and also whether the brick row houses were individually eligible. During discussion, Review Board members identified integrity as an important issue in evaluating National Register eligibility; almost all of the houses have replacement siding and new sash; seven of the eight row houses were altered in the 1970s by the application of stucco and clapboard surfaces and the addition of "colonial"

porches. The row houses do not appear to meet the eligibility criteria for individual listing, but as a group the mill houses are illustrative of corporate building for workers over many decades and may be eligible. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission requested additional information and

VOTED unanimously preliminary approval.

Edward Everett Hale House, 2625 Post Road, South Kingstown

Ms Kennedy presented information about this property, a mid-size Victorian shingle house (1873). This was the summer home for many decades of Edward Everett Hale, a minor but significant figure in American literary history. Hale's principal residence (in Dorchester, MA) is already listed in the National Register, but it appears that Hale may also have worked here. The house is associated with a locally important pattern of unpretentious summer houses in the Matunuck Hills area (either new or modified from older houses) for visitors from Providence and out-of-state. A number of summer houses from the same period line Post Road. Dr. Onorato did not participate in the discussion or the vote, as he is a board member of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society which expects to acquire the house. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Cusack, the Commission

VOTED unanimously preliminary approval. Dr. Onorato was recorded as not voting.

Gately Building, 337-353 Main Street, Pawtucket

Mr. Emidy presented information about this property, a 3-story commercial building on the edge of downtown Pawtucket. The Gately Building (1914) was constructed for a clothing retailer and has cast-iron storefronts on the first floor. Within a few decades, the first floor had become a bank—the interior fittings and a neo-colonial doorway reflect this period. The upper floors were divided into small offices and professional suites. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission

VOTED unanimously preliminary approval.

Moses Taft House, 111 East Wallum Lake Road, Burrillville

Mr. Emidy presented information about this property, a diminutive house (c1780) built for the owner of a nearby sawmill. The house is a well preserved and well restored 5-bay, center-chimney, 5-room plan structure, illustrative of building in the northwest part of Rhode Island in the late 18th century. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission

VOTED unanimously preliminary approval.

5. 2006 State Preservation Awards

Ms Zurier presented a slate of proposed award recipients for the 2006 State Preservation Awards:

Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Award

Providence Preservation Society
Preserve Rhode Island

Frederick C. Williamson Professional Award

Julie Morris, Blithewold
Cornish Associates

Advocacy Award

Pawtuxet Village Association

Project Awards

Daniel Angell Tavern, Gloucester

103 Clay Street, Central Falls

Newport Art Museum

Bridgeton School, Burrillville

Mills: Ashton Mill (Cumberland), Riverfront Lofts (Pawtucket), Bayley Street Lofts (Pawtucket), Rising Sun Mill (Providence), Promenade (Providence), Pearl Street Lofts (Providence).

Stewardship Award

Moses Taft House, Burrillville

Following discussion, the Commission

VOTED unanimous approval of the 2006 State Preservation Awards.

6. Other business: There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: The next regular meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, April 12, 2006.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Minutes recorded by,

Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director